



Winter 2008

Noise walls are coming to your neighborhood in 2008

Residents of the Licton Springs and north Green Lake neighborhoods who live near I-5 experience high noise levels. When I-5 was built in the 1960s through these neighborhoods noise was less of a concern because there was less traffic.

The 2005 Transportation Partnership Package provided funding to design and construct three noise walls along the west side of I-5 between 5th Avenue NE and NE 92nd Street to reduce freeway noise. The design team has completed final design of these three noise walls and crews will begin construction in spring 2008.

WSDOT is working with Sound Transit to coordinate the future design and construction of a proposed noise wall (Wall 1) on the east side of I-5 with the North Link light rail project that is proposed to be built in the same area.



Project map

Community involvement during design

In June 2007, we facilitated a community poll with property owners closest to I-5 in the Licton Springs and Green Lake neighborhoods. Nearly 60 percent of eligible property owners participated, with 95 percent of these participants indicating support for the project. The results of this community poll, along with other feedback we've received from the community showed strong support for noise wall construction in this area.

2007 Outreach Summary				2008 Schedule	
Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
Green Lake Community Council briefing	Community council briefings: • Green Lake • Licton Springs • Maple Leaf	★ May 31 - Eligible Voters Meeting Community council briefings: • Green Lake • Licton Springs Maple Leaf Summer Social	★ August 21 - Community Design Workshop Community council briefings: • Green Lake • Licton Springs		★ Construction Info Session ★ Construction Begins
Green Lake Community Council briefing	June 11-25 - Community Poll			Feb 11 - Project Advertised to contractors	

Noise wall benefits and designs

Noise reduction

We estimated highway traffic noise levels in the Licton Springs and north Green Lake neighborhoods by collecting field measurements during peak free-flowing traffic to ensure the highest average noise levels were represented. We found that noise levels in this area range from 66 – 81 decibels (dBA) for the first row of houses adjacent to the highway. At 66 dBA, most people find it difficult to have a conversation outside.

We anticipate the noise walls constructed in these neighborhoods will reduce noise by more than 10 dBA in some areas. To the human ear, a 10 dBA reduction sounds half as loud as the original noise level. Generally, properties closest to the proposed wall can expect to experience a greater benefit.

Neighborhood side design

In August 2007, we met with property owners nearest the noise wall locations on the west side of I-5 to discuss what the noise walls could look like. The design team incorporated these preferences into the final design of the noise walls which they completed in 2007. Vertical columns will be constructed between each noise wall panel to provide structural support.

Wall 2: between N 85th Street and NE 92nd Street

Existing noise levels	59 – 81 dBA
Anticipated noise reduction	up to 17 dBA
Percentage of property owners who participated in the poll	57%
Wall treatment selected	Ashlar stone
Approximate wall height	12-18 feet



Schematic rendering of Wall 2 with the ashlar stone design at N 92nd St looking south.

Wall 3: between N 82nd Street and N 80th Street

Existing noise levels	63 – 77 dBA
Anticipated noise reduction	up to 12 dBA
Percentage of property owners who participated in the poll	68%
Wall treatment selected	Ashlar stone
Approximate wall height	8-14 feet



Schematic rendering of Wall 3 with the ashlar stone design at N 80th St looking north.

Wall 4: between N 80th Street and 5th Avenue NE

Existing noise levels	60 – 80 dBA
Anticipated noise reduction	up to 14 dBA
Percentage of property owners who participated in the poll	59%
Wall treatment selected	Dry stack stone
Approximate wall height	14-20 feet



Schematic rendering of Wall 4 with the dry stack stone design at NE 77th St looking northeast.

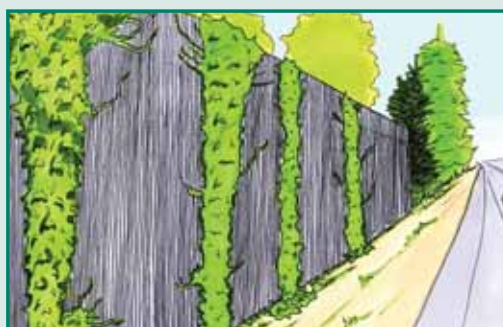


Project map

Landscaping plans

WSDOT's goal is to retain as many trees and plants currently near the wall location as possible. We altered the design of the noise walls to retain the maximum amount of trees at the community's request.

In addition, we will provide landscaping on the highway side of the noise walls. Any new plantings will be consistent with the existing landscaping along this stretch of I-5. We will also provide information to neighbors about what types of landscaping would work well on the neighborhood side of each noise wall.



These drawings show how existing and new vegetation on the highway side could look after five years.



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“ Washington’s Future Just Got Better ”

**MAKING EVERY
DOLLAR COUNT.**

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We will be in touch

We will continue to keep you informed as we approach the construction stage of this project by:

- Hosting a construction information session prior to the start of construction in spring 2008
- Maintaining our project Web site with updates and announcements
- Providing briefings to local community councils
- Distributing flyers about construction activities that may affect the neighborhood

Please contact us to join our e-mail list: FaulknE@wsdot.wa.gov



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